



State of Utah

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Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE

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Utah Geological Survey, DNR

Two State Geologists Honored for Water Quality Work

Salt Lake City, Utah – Mike Lowe and Janae Wallace of the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) within the Department of Natural Resources, are the recipients of the prestigious 2008 Calvin K. Sudweeks Water Quality Award for their work to protect aquifers across the state.

The Division of Water Quality nominated Lowe and Wallace for their 12-year-long effort to protect ground water quality in the state. The award will be presented at the Water Environment Association's annual meeting in St. George on April 2.

"Specifically, Mike and Janae have been responsible for the preparation and submittal of several 'Groundwater Aquifer Classification' petitions, approved by the Water Quality Board, that will help identify and protect the groundwater quality of aquifers throughout the state," said Walt Baker, director of DWQ. "Aquifer classifications serve as a valuable planning tool for counties and towns to protect groundwater resources."

Every year the Water Quality Board recognizes an individual or, in this case, individuals, who have shown outstanding leadership in the water quality field. The award is named for a former state water quality director who was instrumental in leading Utah through dramatic changes in water quality, including improved means of wastewater treatment and the development of protective standards.

Since 1989, Lowe has worked with the UGS identifying geologic hazard and conducting groundwater investigations. He is currently the manager for the Ground-water and Paleontology program. He lives in West Valley.

Wallace, a Salt Lake City resident, has worked in the Ground-water and Paleontology Program of UGS since 1996. She is a certified onsite system professional and a groundwater and soil sampler. She is the scholarship chair for the Salt Lake Chapter's Association of Women Geoscientists.

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